



# Shot Talk



## Texasize It!

The Texas Department of Health will be hosting the Third Annual Immunize Texasize Conference on November 3-5 at the Sheraton Astrodomo in Houston.

Immunize Texasize is for anyone who provides vaccines or promotes immunizations in Texas. Conference highlights include cutting-edge information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases; continuing education credit for nurses and health educators; motivating, informative speakers, networking opportunities; and more.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will be entering a record breaking five poster presentations at the conference. The topics of the poster presentations include Autodailer Reminder Recall Effectiveness, Use of Hb1c, CASA/Registry Comparison, Immunization/WIC Linkage, and Merging New Technology with Existing Immunization Registries. For more conference information call Candy Cates or Lupe Mandujano-Garcia at 1-800-252-9152.

## Secretary Shalala's Vaccine Safety Statement

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala released the following statement August 14, 1998. "Over many years, vaccines have protected millions of people from serious diseases and death. They are among the most cost-effective of all preventive public health practices. Earlier in this century, our children were faced with a number of debilitating and deadly diseases from which they had no protection. Today, the Clinton Administration's Immunization Initiative has given us record-high immunization coverage and record-low levels of disease.

Like other medications, vaccines will never be 100 percent safe-but they save thousands of our children's lives every year. For those very few cases where a vaccine may cause an injury, we need to provide fair compensation. We also need to work vigorously to develop the safest possible vaccines. But most of all, we must not forget the great benefit we are gaining from widespread vaccination. We need to continue to protect our children from the diseases that have threatened them throughout time."

*Source: HHS News*

## Flu Shots Can Be a Life Preserver for Diabetics

People with diabetes are about three times more likely to die from influenza (flu) and pneumonia than those without diabetes, yet more than half of people with diabetes did not get a flu shot in a recent year.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages people with diabetes to get a flu shot before the flu season, which generally runs November through March.

*Source: CDC September 14, 1998.*



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### **SAMHD Celebrates National Adult Immunization Awareness Week- 1998**

Adult immunizations come to the forefront next month as the SAMHD celebrates National Adult Immunization Awareness Week, October 11-17, 1998.

The Immunization Action Coalition and the National Coalition for Adult Immunizations reminds all adults that immunizations are "not just kids' stuff." The focus of adult immunization programs is to immunize at least 60 percent of America's adult population against vaccine preventable diseases to meet the *Healthy People 2000* goal.

Among these vaccine-preventable diseases are influenza, pneumonia, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, measles, mumps, rubella, and chickenpox.

SAMHD encourages all adults to update their immunizations through their private doctor or call the SAMHD AutoDialer at 207-8750 for a list of immunization clinics.

### **Adult Immunization Program Kicks Off!**

With flu season just around the corner, the SAMHD is ready to kick off the 1998 Adult Immunization Program. Beginning October 1st, flu clinics will be held throughout the city at area senior centers, churches, shopping malls, schools, community centers, and SAMHD clinics. Anyone 18 years and older can receive their annual flu shot. The SAMHD particularly urges senior citizens, 65 years of age and older, to get a flu shot as they stand a greater risk of contracting the illness and

suffering from flu-related complications.

In addition to offering flu vaccinations SAMHD will provide tetanus-diphtheria boosters and pneumococcal vaccinations to anyone who is not current on these immunizations. Call 207-8750 for locations of SAMHD clinics nearest you.

Below is a list of special weekend Adult Immunization clinics.

**October 10, 1998**  
**10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**  
**McCreless Mall**

**October 24, 1998**  
**10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**  
**Crossroads Mall**

If you have any questions regarding the SAMHD Adult Immunization Program, please call Rita Macias at 207-8877.

### **Flu & Pneumonia Facts**

- ➔ Pneumonia and influenza together are the fifth leading cause of death in the nation for older adults.
- ➔ 90% of influenza-related deaths occur in people age 65 and older.
- ➔ An average of 20,000 deaths occur annually in the United States due to influenza.
- ➔ 40,000 deaths occur annually in the United States due to pneumococcal infections.
- ➔ Pneumococcal pneumonia results in 10-25% of all pneumonia-associated hospitalizations.

### **New State Law Allows Pharmacists to Immunize**

A recent change in the Texas Pharmacy Act allows pharmacists under certain conditions and guidelines to administer routine immunizations.

Pharmacists have advocated immunizations by hosting influenza immunization teams and giving out information about the problems and dangers of disease. In 1998 the trend is moving from pharmacies hosting clinics to the pharmacists rolling up

their sleeves and giving the immunizations themselves. As of July 1998 there are 26 states that permit pharmacists to administer vaccinations.

Texas pharmacists may administer vaccines only after being properly trained and evaluated in disease epidemiology, vaccine characteristics, injection technique, and related topics. Pharmacists receive additional education and training on current immunization recommendations, schedules and techniques annually.

In the fall of 1997 San Antonio was on the cutting edge of this new pharmacy movement. In cooperation with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District the Davila Pharmacy became the first pharmacy in San Antonio to offer adult immunizations. During the 1998 flu season selected HEB pharmacies will begin to offer flu and Td immunizations to their customers. For more information on pharmacies involved in providing or administering immunizations contact Nancy Walea at 207-2087.

### **RSV Season Is Here**

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is the leading cause of lower respiratory tract infections in infants and young children. Each year, RSV is responsible for more than 90,000 hospitalizations and 4,500 infant deaths. RSV is ubiquitous, highly contagious, and potentially devastating to high-risk patients. The approval of Synagis™ (palivizumab) for intramuscular administration has now provided healthcare professionals an effective RSV prophylaxis in infants and children with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) or premature birth ( $\leq 35$  weeks gestation). We at the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District recommend that your patient's born  $\leq 35$  weeks gestation be seriously considered for this course of treatment since these infants have the highest risk for severe RSV disease. For more information call 877-633-4411.



### VFC? Who's Eligible?

Through the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), publicly purchased vaccine is available at no charge to public and private health care providers for eligible children. Children that meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible for VFC vaccine:

- ➔ **Medicaid Enrolled - a child who is enrolled in the Medicaid program**
- ➔ **Uninsured - a child who has no health insurance coverage**
- ➔ **American Indian or Alaskan Native - as defined by the Indian Health Services Act**
- ➔ **Underinsured - a child whose health insurance benefit plan does not include vaccinations.**

Children whose health insurance covers the cost of vaccinations are not eligible for VFC program benefits, even if the plan's deductible has not been met.

To participate in the VFC program providers have agreed to screen for VFC eligibility. The eligibility screening form is completed on the child's first visit to the provider and remains in the child's medical record. The eligibility screening form is updated when the child's eligibility changes. For more information on VFC eligibility contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

### Thanks!

The VFC Program has actively been updating enrollment and profile information from providers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requires that provider profiles be updated annually.



The VFC staff is happy to announce that updated profiles and enrollment forms have been received from three out of every four providers. We would like to thank all participants who have completed re-enrollment and urge any who have not sent in their forms to do so. If there are questions regarding re-enrollment call Jorge J. Reyes at 207-2862.

### Consents Are Essential

Did you know that the SAMHD is accountable for every dose of VFC vaccine it receives? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requires that the VFC program account for every dose of federally purchased vaccine. The SAMHD accomplishes this with a complex inventory and distribution system, which is part of the Immunization Registry System.

The immunization consent forms come into a data entry section that enters each immunization administered into the San Antonio Immunization Registry System (SAIRS). Each dose of vaccine administered is then subtracted, by lot #, and VFC pin number from the individual inventories of each VFC provider.

Through this system the SAMHD generates annual and monthly reports to the City of San Antonio and the CDC. These reports reflect the total number of immunizations given by public and private providers.

The accurate and timely submission of immunization consent forms is essential for the inventory, distribution system, and the

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Immunization Registry to function at peak efficiency. The submission of immunization consent forms is a requirement of the VFC program.

Immunization histories in the Immunization Registry are based on the immunization consent forms submitted by providers. **If the consents are not submitted weekly, or not submitted at all, the immunization histories in the Immunization Registry will be inaccurate.** The immunization histories available through the AutoDailer and the Internet are all based on the data in the Immunization Registry.

**All providers are reminded to submit their consents weekly in the self addressed, postage paid, mailers provided by SAMHD.** If you need mailers or have any questions about consent forms you may call Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

### Vaccine Study Completed

The SAMHD completed the final phase of an Acellular Pertussis Vaccine Study in August 1998. This study marked the fourth clinical trial that SAMHD has participated in since August 1993 in administering the trivalent vaccine to over 600 Bexar County children.

North American Vaccine, Inc. sponsored the study to examine the safety and immunogenicity of the 5<sup>th</sup> administered dose. Of the 130 children initially eligible to participate, 55 children were vaccinated with *Certiva*<sup>TM</sup> (diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis toxoid, absorbed).

San Antonio is the first of three national sites to complete the administration of the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive dose of the study vaccine. Pittsburgh and Denver will begin clinical trials in 1999. For more information contact Rita Macias at 207-8877.

#### UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAYS

**Veterans Day November 11**  
**Thanksgiving Holidays**  
**November 26 & 27**





## Back-to-School Wrap Up

In an effort to help students and parents comply with the state regulations for entry into Texas schools and child care facilities; the SAMHD provided two back-to-school immunization clinics. The Windsor Park Mall Clinic was co-sponsored by Community First Health Plans and Clear Channel Radio. The Crossroads Mall Clinic was co-sponsored by MacGregor Medical Center and KTSA/KTFM radio stations

During our 1998 back-to-school immunization drive SAMHD screened 524 children and provided 513 children with 1,055 immunizations. The success of these clinics could not have been accomplished without the help of our community partners.

We would like to thank everyone for assisting us in disseminating the information about our Back-to-School Immunization Clinic Activities. For more information on the back to school immunization drive you may contact Pamela Williams at 207-2869.



## CASA Benefits Providers

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is continuing its efforts to increase awareness of vaccination coverage levels and

immunizations through CASA Assessments. To date, 52 assessments have been conducted in VFC Provider's offices. The Vaccines for Children Program is continuing to contact provider's to schedule assessments. If your office is interested in scheduling an assessment please call Brenda Lemke at 207-2859.

The Vaccines for Children Program would like to thank the following providers for participating in a CASA Assessment.

**Alamo City Medical**  
**Dr. Leticia Alvarado**  
**Battered Women's Shelter**  
**Child Care Associates**  
**East San Antonio Pediatric Association**  
**Gamboa Family Practice**  
**Dr. Luis Guimbarda**  
**Holy Cross Family Practice**  
**Dr. Borenstein, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Lipsitt, Dr. Maxwell**  
**Dr. Hugo Muzza**  
**Dr. David Ochoa**  
**San Antonio Institute of Medicine**  
**SAMM Clinic**  
**Southeast Pediatric Association**  
**Solomon/Anthony Clinic**  
**Dr. Daniel Trevino**  
**Trinity Medical Group**  
**Dr. Ernesto Varela**  
**Dr. William Weise**  
**Dr. Luis Torres**

## AutoDialer Tips

There have been numerous calls regarding the AutoDialer. Here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions. If you received instructions on how to use the system at the beginning of this school year, **IGNORE THEM.** They were delayed in reaching you and are outdated. Your original provider number (which was typically 3 digits) is what the system wants when it asks for your phonebook ID. After you enter your ID, please enter the # sign. The system will then ask for your pin number, which is the last four digits of your phone number. After you enter the last four digits of your phone number enter the # sign.

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In August this system delivered over 5,000 immunization records via fax and we have been pleased with the results. If you have questions, please call Terry Boyd at 207-8792.

The phone system is updated once per month due to the downtime required for files to transfer. If you want the absolutely most recent information, you can now use the Internet to reach the Immunization Registry. The Internet version is tied directly to the main database. If you are interested in Internet access please contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

## Our Newest Immunization Partners Are...

The Vaccines for Children Program is pleased to welcome the following providers to the program:

**Dr. Howard H. Galarneau**  
**Dr. Nick H. Shanon**  
**Baptist Medical Center**

## Welcome Aboard!

### SAMHD Immunization Program Contacts:

Program Operations:	
Mark Ritter, MHA	207-8794
CDC Public Health Advisor:	
Jacqueline Cardona	207-2870
Clinical Operation/Foreign Travel:	
Lynn Seeman, RN	207-8804
Hepatitis Program/Surveillance/Rabies:	
Nancy Walea, RN	207-2087
VFC Program:	
Vivian Flores	207-2868
Infant Action Plan:	
Pamela Williams	207-2869
Systems Analyst:	
Terry Boyd, MS	207-8792
CASA Coordinator	
Brenda Lemke, MHA	207-2859
Vaccine Ordering:	
Anthony Johnson	921-1178

**Thank you  
for your  
continued  
support!**

